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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

15 Apr. 1974

State Dept. review completed

CZECHOSLOVAKIA-HUNGARY

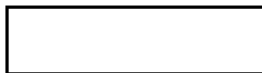
Hungarian Leaders Visit Prague

The 10-12 April visit to Prague of the Hungarian party and government delegation led by party boss Kadar and Premier Fock resulted in no significant announcements. The two sides expressed satisfaction with their close and friendly relations and agreed on further cooperation in the economic, scientific-technical, and cultural sectors. They also pledged further economic cooperation through CEMA. The two party leaders (and the final communique) had some harsh words for the Chinese, prompting Peking's envoy to boycott a Hungarian reception on April 11. In the past, the Chinese have been notably tolerant of such Hungarian statements and have considered them a Soviet-inspired ritual.

The communique called for the concluding phase of CSCE to be held "in a short time at the highest level," and stated that conditions were becoming ripe for holding a European Communist Party meeting. In speeches, both Kadar and Czechoslovak party boss Husak endorsed preparations for a world Communist conference, but this idea was not carried over into the communique.

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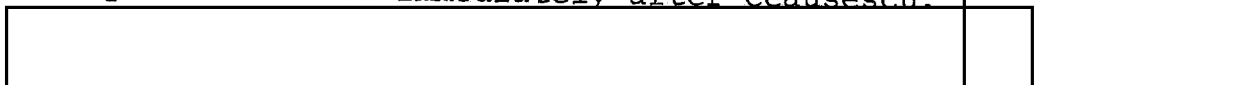
ROMANIA

The Weakening of the Council of Ministers

Last week's economic cadre conference further indicated the degree to which the newly created presidency has diminished the role of the council of ministers. The speech of the new premier, Manea Manescu, clearly suggested that the role of the council is now restricted to ensuring that the ideas of President Ceausescu are properly carried out. In fact, the council is being relocated into the party headquarters building where Ceausescu works. This clearly subordinate role became more apparent on Saturday, when the Council met to rubberstamp tasks supplied by the party and state leader. Moreover, the Premier no longer rates the same protocol status. In the press list of the conference participants, Ceausescu came first, followed by old-timer Bodnaras, after whom the article listed the majority of the party executive committee members in alphabetical order. Heretofore, the Premier has always been listed immediately after Ceausescu.

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HUNGARY

Scheel in Budapest

West German foreign ministry officials say that Budapest gave Foreign Minister Scheel a "somewhat more cool" reception than Sofia had earlier, and attribute the coolness to Hungarian concern about Moscow's ever-watchful eye.

In discussions of international issues, Budapest expressed strong opposition to the West European integration process, declared unacceptable the Western goal of a common ceiling as the basis for force reductions, and pushed hard for the inclusion of indigenous forces in the initial phase of reductions. Once again, Budapest said Hungary could be part of force reductions only if Italy were included. The Hungarians also pressed hard for FRG acquiescence to a high-level summit to cap the European security process. In the communique, the Hungarians unsuccessfully sought some tough language on Vietnam and the Middle East.



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On bilateral matters, the two sides agreed tentatively to institutionalize deputy foreign ministerial talks that had begun in 1972 and scheduled two ministerial-level exchanges for sometime before the end of the year. The also negotiated four agreements dealing with trade, transport, technology, and culture. In addition, Budapest broached the issue of low-interest German credits, and raised, in an apparent pro forma manner, the issues of further compensation for victims of Naziism and the activities of RFE.

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